

Serial No.: 10/016,677
Group Art Unit: 2667
Examiner: Rhonda L. Murphy

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 remain in this application. Claims 8, 18, 19, 24 and 30 have been amended to correct typographical errors.

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Hosler, et al. (US 2002/0009048 A1, filed December 29, 2000).

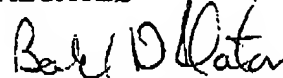
The enclosed declaration by Bobby D. Slaton is provided under 37 CFR 1.131 to establish reduction to practice prior to the effective date (December 29, 2000) of the Hosler reference or conception of the presently-claimed invention prior to the effective date (December 29, 2000) of the Hosler reference coupled with due diligence from October 6, 1999 to a subsequent reduction to practice or to the filing of the present application (December 10, 2001). Therefore, Applicant submits that the Hosler reference is inapplicable under 35 USC 102(e).

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, the foregoing amendment places the Application in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn and full allowance granted. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, please contact Bobby Slaton at (972) 519-2295.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 3, 2006

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